



LOS ANGELES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 22, 2015

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Dear California Community College Board of Governors,

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce has long shared and supported the goal of increasing individual and regional economic competitiveness by providing California's workforce with relevant skills and quality credentials that match employer needs to fuel a strong economy.

We applaud the Strong Workforce Taskforce for its bold leadership and their willingness to respond to our request for meaningful changes within the state's California Community College system to ensure that more employers have access to a skilled and qualified workforce and students are ready for the high-value jobs that currently exist in our State. We believe that the Taskforce has laid out a comprehensive plan to implement proven strategies that will bolster the capacity of community colleges to prepare one million more Californians for middle-skilled careers.

We urge the Board of Governors to adopt the 25 recommendations of the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation And a Strong Economy as a strategy to ensure more students are prepared to enter the workforce, and to position California to attract high-value jobs in high-need industry sectors. The Strong Workforce Taskforce recommendations are a critical first step to improving California's competitive advantage in the global marketplace and to enabling more Californians to secure employment above the minimum wage. We believe that recommendations like a focus on workforce outcomes and credit for prior learning and competency-based education strategies have the potential to dramatically increase student engagement, persistence, and completion, while simultaneously creating opportunities for collaboration and alignment between faculty and industry - ultimately better-preparing students to enter the workforce.

We thank you in advance for your consideration. Please feel free to call upon us for any additional information, or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Toebben".

Gary Toebben
President & CEO
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce